



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY
ARLINGTON, VA 22211-5003

AUG 20 2010

SASA-ANC

MEMORANDUM FOR All Arlington National Cemetery Personnel

SUBJECT: Arlington National Cemetery Policy Letter – Headstone Lithochrome Policy

1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to establish policies and procedures for the use of lithochrome on headstones at Arlington National Cemetery.
2. SCOPE. This policy applies to all headstones ordered for Arlington National Cemetery.
3. BACKGROUND. The first headstones at Arlington National Cemetery were simple white headstones with the personal information and grave site number etched into the stone. Later lithochrome was introduced to blacken the etching in the headstone to make it easier to read.
4. CONCERNS. Over time, depending on location, conditions and the specific lithochrome used, the blackening fades. The fading occurs in a very non-uniform way both within a particular headstone and across a section. Additionally, there are sections that were traditionally non-lithochromed where lithochromed headstones have been introduced.
5. POLICY. Henceforth, headstones will be ordered consistent with the character of the section they are to be placed in. This means that:
 - a. Headstones ordered for sections 54, 59, 60 and 64, as well as niche covers for the Columbarium and the Niche Wall, will be lithochromed.
 - b. Lithochrome will NOT be used when ordering headstones for any other section.
 - c. Headstones and niche covers will only be replaced because of fading if requested by the immediate next of kin on the original record of interment.
 - d. Any new sections will NOT have lithochrome.
6. ADMINISTRATIVE. The term headstone in this policy refers to all government gravesite markers. The term immediate next of kin in this policy refers to the next of kin at the time of need, NOT his or her successors.
7. EFFECTIVE. This policy is effective immediately.

KATHRYN A. CONDON
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Army National Cemeteries Program